



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** CMAP Transportation Committee

**From:** CMAP staff

**Date:** May 2015

**Re:** Long-range plan schedule and strategy paper development process

---

---

As discussed at the April 2015 Transportation Committee meeting, development is beginning on the next comprehensive regional plan. The next plan is expected to build upon GO TO 2040's foundation by refining its major recommendations and offering more specific policies and strategies, as well as by identifying limited new policy directions. This memo describes the overall timeline for plan development, suggests a schedule of Transportation Committee (TC) discussions on major issues in plan development in the upcoming year, and proposes a process for preparing background material for the plan in the form of strategy papers.

### Overall Timeline

Development of the next plan is a three-year process expected to culminate in approval of the successor to GO TO 2040 in the fall of 2018. In broad strokes, plan development is anticipated to occur as follows:

- **July 2015 – June 2016:** Develop background information through strategy papers (discussed below) and snapshot reports, investigate new policy directions for the planning process, and address major issues such as regionally significant project definition in preparation for plan development.
- **July 2016 – June 2017:** Conduct scenario planning, begin developing financial plan, solicit and begin evaluating regionally significant projects, and continue refinement of plan recommendations. An extensive public engagement process is expected in the summer of 2017.
- **July 2017 – June 2018:** Finalize the chosen scenario and policy recommendations, complete evaluation of regionally significant projects, prepare the plan document, and continue public and stakeholder involvement.
- **July 2018 – October 2018:** Prepare plan for adoption by CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee.

As with GO TO 2040, development of the region's next comprehensive plan is envisioned to include significant stakeholder and public outreach. In the upcoming year, implementer input is proposed to occur via CMAP committees, topic-specific working groups, and interviews and data requests.

## Strategy Papers

Similar to GO TO 2040, it is expected that a series of strategy papers will be developed on transportation, land use, natural resources, and other topics. Each strategy paper will provide agency direction on new topics or explore refinements to existing plan recommendations. These strategy papers will be developed with the assistance of CMAP committees and, where topics cut across multiple topic areas or are outside current committee expertise, working groups composed of topic area experts from CMAP committees and key stakeholders.

Within the transportation area, a typical strategy paper would define the strategy, describe its potential benefits and drawbacks, and characterize the opportunity for implementing it (or increasing its use). For reference, the [GO TO 2040 strategy papers](#) on transportation topics include:

- Alternative Fuels
- Arterial Operations–Access Management
- Arterial Operations – Roundabouts
- Bicycling
- Car-sharing
- Context Sensitivity
- Interregional Transportation
- Pricing and Managed Facilities
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Public Transportation
- Transportation Demand Management
- Transportation Security / Incident Management

The working groups for transportation topics will comprise select members of the TC, other topic area experts from TC members' agencies, and potentially other key stakeholders as appropriate to the topic (although when a group with suitable expertise at CMAP already exists, it will be called upon for the task). Ideally the newly-formed groups would have 10 – 15 members. The working groups would meet as needed for 6 – 12 months to discuss potential directions for CMAP under each topic and review interim memos. Each working group will culminate in the development of a topical strategy paper, at which point the purpose of the group will be reassessed. Staff will also work to develop a technical memo that translates the chosen strategies into scenario planning inputs.

In the upcoming fiscal year starting July 1 (FY 16), staff hopes to develop four strategy papers on transportation topics, with another set to be developed in the following fiscal year. Staff is seeking input from the TC on the topics to be selected and the personnel to be involved. An initial list of potential topics is:

- Asset management
- Alternative transportation system funding concepts
- Transit modernization

- Highway operations / advanced traffic management (note: for this strategy paper, the Regional Transportation Operations Coalition would be the working group)

After initial discussion at the May 2015 TC meeting, staff hopes to finalize the FY 16 list of strategy papers at the July 2015 TC meeting and begin forming working groups that same month.

In addition to the topics specific to TC, other strategy papers proposed for plan development will explore topics that have a connection to transportation. Once the topic areas are finalized, select representatives from the service boards, counties and local jurisdictions, and civic and academic organizations that are also represented on TC may be asked to participate in these working groups based on the needs of the strategy paper in question.

### **Transportation Committee Engagement in FY 16**

The following is a list of milestones for the TC engagement in the development of the next long-range plan over the upcoming fiscal year. As previously discussed, forums would be held on specific topics following certain TC meetings. Please note that this schedule may evolve over time. Again, the focus is on preparatory steps in plan development to be discussed at the following TC meetings:

- July 2015
  - Confirm list of strategy paper topics
  - Initial discussion of options for defining regionally significant projects
- September 2015
  - Recommendation on definition of regionally significant projects
  - Post-TC forum on setting targets for pavement condition indicator
- November 2015
  - Report to TC on use of observed performance data for evaluating transportation system needs
  - Post-TC forum on setting targets, indicator TBD
- January - March 2016
  - Post-TC forums on economic evaluation for highway and transit projects
  - Presentations from other MPOs or other experts on MPO financial planning
  - Report back on strategy papers
- April – June 2016:
  - Report back on strategy papers

**Action requested: Discussion**